

# Land Acquisition



Photo by Al Carpenter

## New Point Comfort: Mathews County

New Point Comfort in Mathews County contains primary and secondary dunes as well as mixed deciduous/pine forested wetlands and saltmarshes, creating a marvelous ecotone from Chesapeake Bay to Mobjack Bay. The point provides breeding habitat for the federally endangered Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle and feeding habitat for the federally threatened Least Tern. River otters are also seen in this area. The purchase of this 95 acre site complements the conservation work already accomplished by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage Program, and The Nature Conservancy at nearby Bethel Beach. Both New Point Comfort and Bethel Beach are dedicated by the Natural Heritage Program as State Natural Area Preserves. The relatively accessible nature of the site provides excellent opportunities for nature activities and interpretive areas.

A boardwalk on the Mobjack Bay side of New Point Comfort has recently been constructed with funds provided to Mathews County by the Virginia Coastal Program (see project list for 1995 task 68).

*The Nature Conservancy, Virginia Chapter*  
Contact: Linda Lundquist-Crowe, 804.295.6106  
July 1994  
1992 Task 23



## Alton's Creek: City of Virginia Beach

### *North Landing River Natural Area Preserve*

This project involved the purchase of 45 acres of land adjacent to the North Landing River Natural Area Preserve in Virginia Beach by the Natural Heritage Program at the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The acquisition provides a site for access to the North Landing River Natural Area Preserve which was otherwise not accessible, due to a lack of road frontage on the preserve. The property was purchased in January 1994, and has been dedicated into the Virginia Natural Area Preserve System. The tract has frontage on Blackwater Road to the west, and frontage on Alton's Creek, a tributary of the North Landing State Scenic River. The property acquired through this grant supports upland mesic forest and swamp, and provides habitat for the rare Dismal Swamp southeastern shrew, canebrake rattlesnake and silky camelia.

*Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation*  
Contact: Larry Smith, 804.786.7951  
January 1994  
1992 Task 22



*See Also: Public Access, page 52 -  
North Landing River Area Preserve/Alton's Creek  
Boardwalk*

## Jones Creek: Isle of Wight County

This project involved the purchase of four acres of land on Jones Creek located in Newport District, adjacent to seven acres of land currently owned by the County of Isle of Wight. The land was purchased by the County for the development of a public boat ramp.

*Isle of Wight County*  
Contact: 804.357.3191  
October 1992  
1991 Task 57



*See Also:  
Public Access, page 55 - Jones Creek Boat Ramp*

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Photo courtesy of the Department of Conservation & Recreation

## Northwest River: City of Chesapeake *Northwest River Natural Area Preserve*

This project involved purchase of a significant natural area on the Northwest River in the City of Chesapeake. This 926.23-acre tract, formerly known as the McAlpine Tract, was dedicated as part of the 2258 acre Northwest River Natural Area Preserve in 1995. This tract is home to rare species, including the federally threatened Dismal Swamp southeastern shrew, the state endangered canebrake rattlesnake, and rare plants including the silky camelia and Carolina boltonia. The tract also supports a narrow fringe of fresh water wind tide marsh along the Northwest River and extensive forested wetlands and upland hardwood forest.

*Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation*  
Contact: Larry Smith, DCR-Division of Natural Heritage,  
804.786.7951  
October 1995  
1993 Task 7.1  
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## Northwest River: City of Chesapeake *Northwest River Natural Area Preserve*

This project involved the purchase of privately-held timber rights on a 415-acre tract acquired by the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) in January of 1995 for inclusion within the Northwest River Natural Area Preserve. The tract, the John D. Maxey Tract is located along the Northwest River in southeastern Virginia on the Virginia-North Carolina border. The tract supports an impressive, high quality stand of mature pine-hardwood forest dominated by loblolly pine, red oak, tulip-tree, and white oak, which have been largely undisturbed. The purchase of this upland timber will offer habitat protection to the state endangered canebrake rattlesnake.

This project also provided funding for improvement of the public access road leading into the Maxey Tract, which is used for guided field trips sponsored by DCR, staff from the nearby Northwest River Park (owned by the City of Chesapeake), and other environmental education groups. The road also provides access to the tract by researchers and site managers.

*Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation*  
Contact: Larry Smith, 804.786.7951  
May 1996  
1994 Task 7.1  
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*See Also:*  
Special Area Management Plans, page 92 -  
*Virginia Seaside Farms: A Conservation Easement*  
*Program in Northampton County*